

Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System
Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2006

PRESENT:	Ted Trembley, Bangor	Frank Higgins, Brewer
	Dana Wardwell, Bangor	Bob Osborne, Hampden
	David Struck, Orono	Jim Ring, Bangor
	Janis Piper, MDOT	Linda Johns, Brewer
	Joel Kittredge, MDOT	Dianne Currie, BACTS
	Mike Laberge, MDOT	Rob Kenerson, BACTS
	Charles Heinonen, Old Town	Don Cooper, BACTS
	Bill Reed, Veazie	Jaci Hancock, EMDC
	John Robichaud, Orono	

The Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Technical Committee met on Tuesday, April 18, 2006 in the Penobscot Boardroom at EMDC, 40 Harlow Street, Bangor, Maine. Jim Ring called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 21ST MEETING MINUTES

Frank Higgins' motion to approve the February 21, 2006 Technical Committee meeting minutes was seconded and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION OF FY 2008-2010 CAPITAL WORK PLAN (BTIP)

Rob Kenerson presented information on the BTIP process, with a focus on how the submission/review process works and walked the committee through the MPO Project Application. He solicited towns to submit projects for consideration by late May and advised that scope information must be submitted along with each BTIP project proposal. Rob indicated that he will send reminders of the late May deadline to all BACTS communities. Once the proposals are received, projects will be reviewed and prioritized. A short-list of approximately 25 projects will be created and those projects will undergo scoping (taking counts and reviewing conditions) during June and July. Following the scoping exercise, proposed BTIP projects will be brought before the Technical Committee at its meeting on the third Tuesday of August and, upon their recommendation, brought before the Policy Committee for approval at its next meeting, scheduled for the third Tuesday of September. This will enable BACTS to make its submission to DOT by the September deadline. Mike Laberge, MDOT, told the committee that they will have a better idea of actual funding levels in June/July and advised that any proposals that are submitted be "conservative" in nature.

HAMPDEN ROUTE 1A PROJECT SCOPING DISCUSSION

Rob Kenerson led an energetic discussion of the challenge of determining the appropriate project scope for the second stage (of the initially proposed three-stages) of the Hampden Route 1A project. In the face of limited funding and increasing construction costs, the committee must determine how best to move forward. It was suggested that this project should be treated as a priority and "done right" as it is the last of the major arterials in the BACTS region that needs to be addressed. The first issue that was discussed was whether the presently scheduled PE should be conducted or postponed. After discussion, it was agreed to hold off on conducting a survey until the scope of the project is defined. There followed a discussion of the various decisions that must be made before moving forward, including: length of the roadway to be worked on; shoulder width (8' or 4'); type of drainage system (closed or open); how to deal with the complications posed by the concrete road bed; and whether to include sidewalks; among other items. In addition, the options of whether this project should be

submitted as a CHIP project; designated a "basket case road" to obtain earmarked funding; or given holdover treatment were raised.

Following discussion of the many options and issues raised by those options, it was the consensus of the committee that, in order to make an informed decision, they need to have a cost/benefit analysis for each of scope options. Joel Kittredge, MDOT, agreed to create and provide this information to the committee. Bob Osborne, Town of Hampden, noted that the Town Council can suggest alternate proposals to be put before BACTS. He shared his belief that it is important to provide the council with the most accurate and comprehensive information possible.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rob Kenerson advised the committee that he will get an update on the status of the three earmark requests that were submitted by BACTS for inclusion in the FY 2007 appropriation bill (\$844-944K for Stillwater Avenue; \$180-200K for Wilson Street, and approximately \$300K to fully fund the Ohio Street project).

MDOT representatives confirmed that they are anticipating approximately \$4.3 million for BTIP projects this year (although lower than first hoped, it is higher than last year).

The next meeting of the Technical Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20th. BACTS will provide a short-list of BTIP projects at the June meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved; meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaci S. Hancock